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Dated: March 12, 2009

JAMES M. MARLAR
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re:	Chapter 11	
FIRST MAGNUS FINANCIAL) CORPORATION,)	No. 4:07-bk-01578-JMM	
CORTORATION,	MEMORANDUM DECISION	
	(CLAIMS OF ANGELA GANAHL, MARGARET	
	GELPI AND DEBBIE SHOEMAKER)	

On January 27, 2009 this court heard and considered the positions of various parties concerning objection to their claims, which had been filed by the Liquidating Trustee under the confirmed plan of reorganization of this debtor. None of the claimants appeared in court to present their cases. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court took certain objections under advisement, in order to more fully review the law (Dkt. #5138). The matters taken under advisement were:

<u>Claimant</u>	Claim #	Objection, Response, Reply
Angela Ganahl	3385	Docket 4760, 4788, 5100
Margaret Gelpi	3015	Docket 4274, 4749, 5100
Debbie Shoemaker	1690	Docket 4760, 4791, 5100

Each claim will be discussed in turn.

1	ANGELA GANAHL			
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3	Ms. Ganahl filed a claim for \$1,540.80, claiming priority status under 11 U.S.C.			
4	§ 507(a)(4)(A) for accrued, but unused, vacation pay. The Liquidating Trustee disputes that "unuse			
5	vacation pay" is entitled to be paid at all.			
6	Ms. Ganahl presented no affirmative evidence. The evidence presented by the			
7	Liquidating Trustee shows that the First Magnus employer handbook only authorized "current			
8	employees" to the benefits of accrued vacation and/or sick pay.			
9	Because Ms. Ganahl was unable to cite an instance wherein another terminated			
10	employee received such benefits, she failed to carry the shifted burden of proof as to this part of he			
11	claim, once the Liquidating Trustee raised a credible argument that she was not entitled thereto.			
12	Ms. Ganahl's claim for \$1,540.80 for unused vacation will be denied.			
13				
14	MARGARET GELPI			
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16	Ms. Gelpi filed a claim for six (6) months of unused vacation pay.			
17	For the reasons set forth above, as to Ms. Ganahl's similar claim, this claim for unuse			
18	vacation pay shall be denied.			
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21	<u>DEBBIE SHOEMAKER</u>			
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23	Ms. Shoemaker also filed a claim for unused vacation pay. The Liquidating Trustee			
24	disputes any amount attributable to vacation pay.			
25	Ms. Shoemaker notes that it is inequitable to treat employees, who loyally waited for			
26	their chance to take vacation, differently than those who were fortunate enough to have actually			
27	taken their vacation prior to the mass layoff.			
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While the court sympathizes with this position, in the absence of evidence to show that 1 2 First Magnus failed to follow the dictates of its written handbook policies, this court has no 3 discretion which can be exercised equitably. Equity follows the law, and the law does not authorize recovery here. 4 5 For the reasons set forth above, as to Ms. Ganahl's similar claim, this claim for unused vacation pay must also be denied. 6 7 8 **RULING** 9 Ms. Ganahl's claim of priority for \$1,540.80 for unused vacation pay will be DENIED. 10 11 Ms. Gelpi's claim of priority for six months of unused vacation pay will be DENIED. 12 Ms. Shoemaker's claim of priority for unused vacation pay will be DENIED. 13 Counsel for the Liquidating Trustee shall submit a form of order consistent with this 14 decision, and serve a copy on Ms. Ganahl, Ms. Gelpi and Ms. Shoemaker. Any appeal from the 15 orders must be filed within ten days after the orders are signed. FED. R. BANKR. P. 8002. 16 DATED AND SIGNED ABOVE. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

1 2	COPIES served upon the following in the manner indicated on the date signed above:	
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21	By /s/ M.B. Thompson Judicial Assistant	
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